

CENTRAL WATERFRONT MASTER PARKS PLAN

FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT



CITY OF SEATTLE

SEATTLE PARKS AND RECREATION

SEPTEMBER 2006

FACT SHEET

Project Title	Central Waterfront Master Parks Plan Final Environmental Impact Statement (Final EIS)
Location	The project area is located along about 1,350 feet of Elliott Bay shoreline west of Alaskan Way in the center of Seattle's Central Waterfront from north of Pier 57 to the Port of Seattle's Bell Street Marina. The Seattle Aquarium is located within the project area at Piers 59 and 60 between Waterfront Park and Piers 62/63. Street ends of Pine Street, Pike Street, and Union Street, if extended to the shoreline, would terminate within the project area. The Virginia Street right of way between Piers 62/63 and the Bell Street Marina represents the north boundary of the project area.
Proposed Action	Seattle Parks and Recreation is undertaking the study of four build alternatives for the removal and/or reconstruction of Piers 62/63 and short-term improvements to and eventual removal of Waterfront Park. A No Action/No Build Alternative is also considered in the EIS. Habitat enhancements for each of the build alternatives are considered to replace relatively common subtidal habitat with relatively scarce shallow intertidal habitat. The outcome of the study will be the adoption of a Master Plan, based on the chosen alternative, for the Central Waterfront Park spaces west of Alaskan Way, from Waterfront Park to Piers 62/63, exclusive of the Seattle Aquarium.
Recommended Preferred Alternative	Based on the EIS analysis and public and agency comments on the Draft EIS, Seattle Parks and Recreation staff recommends that an updated version of the Multi-Purpose Pier Alternative be selected as the preferred Master Plan alternative. The preferred alternative is judged to be most consistent with the project objectives, City Council and mayoral direction, and public comment. Although the EIS includes conceptual drawings of the alternatives, the eventual locations and shapes of overwater structures and habitat enhancements may be different from those shown in the drawings. The preferred alternative's characteristics will be more fully described in programmatic terms. Chapter 7 of the Final EIS presents a compiled set of graphics related to the staff preferred alternative.

Seattle Parks and Recreation's recommendation, represented by the Multi-Purpose Pier Alternative, consists of the following features:

- The demolition of Piers 62/63 and their replacement with a new pier that would:
 - Be located in proximity to, and connected to, the north side of the Seattle Aquarium, providing access from the end of Pier 59 to the north
 - Allow for Seattle Aquarium expansion as envisioned in the Seattle Aquarium Master Plan (Parks 2004)
 - Accommodate events for up to 4,000 people, while also providing public access along the perimeter, moorage, and other unprogrammed space
 - Feature an approximately 50-foot offset from the shoreline with access to the pier by pedestrian and vehicular ramps, as needed, thereby increasing light within nearshore habitats
- Improved nearshore habitat enhancements, including habitat bench/migration corridor, extended foreshore, and foreshore/backshore gravel beach types. Public viewing and interpretation of the resulting enhancements is envisioned.
- Near-term improvements to Waterfront Park addressing structural, functional, and public safety issues.
- Future demolition of Waterfront Park structures and replacement with future expanded Seattle Aquarium structures and nearshore habitat enhancement.

Proponent Seattle Parks and Recreation

Date of Implementation Seattle City Council action on the proposed Central Waterfront Master Parks Plan is expected in 2007. The timing of the implementation of the approved plan would depend on the availability of funding.

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Required Approvals

Preliminary investigation indicates that the following permits and/or approvals could be required for construction of a future project based on the adopted Central Waterfront Master Parks Plan. Specific permits will depend on the project design and particular features included in the project at the time of implementation. Permits and approvals that will be needed will be confirmed during the project-level review process.

City of Seattle

- Shoreline Substantial Development Permit
- Demolition Permits
- Building Permit
- Mechanical Permits
- Electrical Permits
- Utility Relocation and Development Permits

Washington State Department of Natural Resources

- Aquatic Use Authorization (Harbor Area Lease)

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

- Rivers and Harbors Act, Section 10
- Clean Water Act, Section 404 Permit

Washington State Department of Ecology

- 401 Water Quality Certification
- Construction Stormwater National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit
- Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA) Consistency Determination

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

- Hydraulic Project Approval

National Marine Fisheries Service

- Section 7, Endangered Species Act Consultation

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

- Section 7, Endangered Species Act Consultation

EIS Authors and

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The Central Waterfront Master Parks Plan EIS has been prepared under the direction of Seattle Parks and Recreation. The following consultant firms provided research and analysis:

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Earth

Water

Transportation

Public Services and Utilities

**Date of Draft EIS
Issuance**

June 27, 2006

**Date Draft EIS
Comments Due**

August 1, 2006

Comment letters and responses to comments have been added to Chapter 6 of this Final EIS.

Draft EIS Public Hearing

A public hearing was held at the following date, time, and location:

Date: Tuesday, July 18, 2006
 Time: 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.
 Place: Park Board Room at Denny Park
 100 Dexter Avenue North
 Seattle, Washington

Date of Final Action

City Council approval of the Master Plan is anticipated to occur in early 2007.

Previous Environmental Documents

The *Seattle Central Waterfront Park Planning Feasibility Study* (MAKERS 2005) prepared for Seattle Parks and Recreation forms the planning basis for this EIS. The Feasibility Study provides information used in this EIS, including planning objectives, information on existing conditions in the project area, and planning and preliminary environmental evaluations. Environmental documents associated with several other Seattle waterfront projects were referenced in the preparation of this EIS, including State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) checklists for improvements at the Seattle Aquarium (Parks 2003) and an update to the Seattle Aquarium Master Plan (Parks 2004), and the Draft EIS for the SR 99 – Alaskan Way Viaduct and Seawall Replacement (WSDOT 2004b).

Location of Background Information

Background material and supporting documents for this Draft and Final EIS are available for review at the office of Seattle Parks and Recreation (see address of contact person above).

Availability/Cost of the Draft EIS

This Final EIS is available for review at the office of Seattle Parks and Recreation, located at 800 Maynard Avenue South, Third Floor, Seattle, Washington 98134-1336. In addition, the document can be reviewed at the Seattle Public Library downtown location (1000 Fourth Avenue).

Copies of the Final EIS and Appendices may be obtained at a cost of \$35 per copy by contacting David Graves by phone (206) 684-7048 or by email david.graves@seattle.gov. The Final EIS and Appendices are available at no cost on CD or on the internet at <http://www.seattle.gov/parks/maintenance/Pier62-63>.

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